

Appendix A

Claim Amendments

1. - 10. (Canceled)

11. (Previously presented) An active compound unit comprising an acid-labile active compound, wherein the acid-labile active compound in the active compound unit is selected from the group consisting of an acid-labile proton pump inhibitor, a salt of an acid-labile proton pump inhibitor with a base, and a hydrate of a salt of an acid-labile proton pump inhibitor with a base, and is present in a matrix made of a mixture comprising at least one fatty alcohol and at least one solid paraffin, wherein said active compound unit is a microsphere.

12. (Previously presented) An active compound unit comprising an acid-labile active compound, wherein the acid-labile active compound in the active compound unit is selected from the group consisting of an acid-labile proton pump inhibitor, a salt of an acid-labile proton pump inhibitor with a base, and a hydrate of a salt of an acid-labile proton pump inhibitor with a base, and is present in a matrix made of a mixture comprising at least one fatty acid ester and at least one

solid paraffin or in a matrix made of a mixture comprising at least one triglyceride and at least one solid paraffin, wherein said active compound unit is a microsphere.

13. (Currently amended) The active compound unit as claimed in claim 11, wherein one or more ~~further~~ excipients selected from the group consisting of polymers, sterols and basic compounds, is/are present in the matrix.

14. (Previously presented) The active compound unit as claimed in claim 11, wherein the active compound present is an acid-labile proton pump inhibitor.

15. (Previously presented) The active compound unit as claimed in claim 11, wherein the microsphere has a particle size range of 50-800 μm .

16. (Canceled)

17. (Canceled)

18. (Previously presented) A process for the production of an active compound unit in the form of a microsphere comprising

an acid-labile active compound, where the acid-labile active compound is selected from the group consisting of an acid-labile proton pump inhibitor, a salt of an acid-labile proton pump inhibitor with a base, and a hydrate of a salt of an acid-labile proton pump inhibitor with a base, and is present in the microsphere in a matrix made of a mixture comprising at least one fatty alcohol and at least one solid paraffin, at least one triglyceride and at least one solid paraffin or at least one fatty acid ester with at least one solid paraffin, comprising the following steps:

- a. preparing a solution or dispersion of the acid-labile active compound in the fatty alcohol and paraffin, triglyceride and paraffin or fatty acid ester and paraffin;
- b. prilling the solution or dispersion prepared in step (a) and obtaining drops of the solution or dispersion; and
- c. solidifying the drops obtained in step (b) in a suitable medium.

19. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 18, where the prilling is carried out by means of vibrating nozzles, wherein the solution or dispersion which flows to the nozzle is kept at a constant temperature, and wherein the

solidification of the drops takes place in a suitable cooling medium after stabilization thereof by sudden quenching.

20. (Previously presented) A microsphere prepared by the process as claimed in claim 18.

21. - 32. (Canceled)

33. (Previously presented) The active compound unit as claimed in claim 11, wherein the acid-labile proton pump inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of omeprazole, pantoprazole, lansoprazole and rabeprazole.

34. (Previously presented) The active compound unit as claimed in claim 11, wherein the acid-labile proton pump inhibitor is pantoprazole sodium sesquihydrate, (-)-pantoprazole sodium sesquihydrate, omeprazole magnesium, omeprazole, esomeprazole magnesium or esomeprazole.

35. (Previously presented) The active compound unit as claimed in claim 11, wherein the acid-labile proton pump inhibitor is pure enantiomer.

36. (Previously presented) The active compound unit as claimed in claim 11, wherein the acid-labile proton pump inhibitor is esomeprazole or (-)-pantoprazole.

37. (Previously presented) The active compound unit as claimed in claim 15, wherein the microsphere has a particle size range of 50-500 μm .

38. (Previously presented) The active compound unit as claimed in claim 15, wherein the microsphere has a particle size range of 50-400 μm .

39. (Previously presented) The active compound unit as claimed in claim 38, wherein the microsphere is a monomodal microsphere.

40. (Previously presented) The active compound unit as claimed in claim 38, wherein the microsphere has a particle size range of 50-200 μm .

41. (Previously presented) The active compound unit as claimed in claim 11, wherein the fatty alcohol is selected from the group consisting of cetyl alcohol, myristyl alcohol,

lauryl alcohol, stearyl alcohol and mixtures thereof.

42. (Previously presented) The active compound unit as claimed in claim 12, wherein the triglyceride is selected from the group consisting of tristearate, tripalmitate, trimyrystate and mixtures thereof.

43. (Previously presented) The active compound unit as claimed in claim 12, wherein the fatty acid ester is cetyl palmitate.

44. (Previously presented) The active compound unit as claimed in claim 11, wherein the solid paraffin is paraffinum solidum or ozocerite.

45. (Canceled)

46. (Canceled)

47. (Canceled)